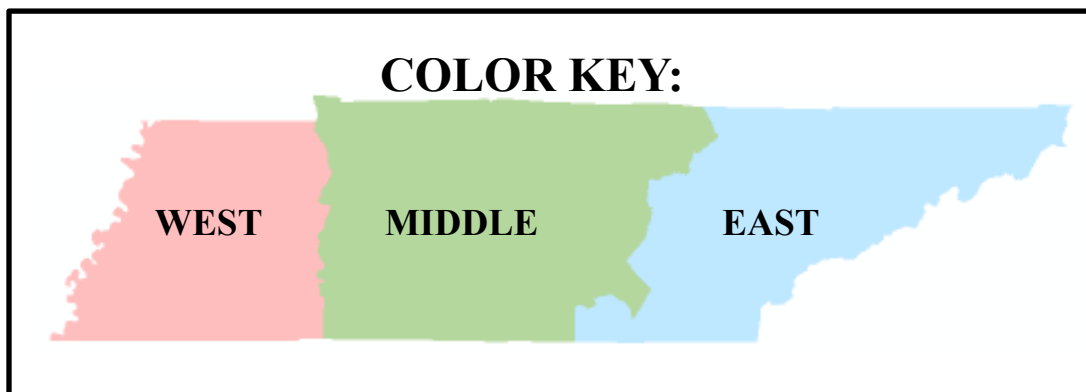


Division of Natural Areas

Schedule of Events for 2018



Short Springs Winter Hike

Date: February 10, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 2/8/2018

Location: Short Springs State Natural Area (35.407453, -86.174645). Short Springs Road, Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Hike Leader(s): David Adams, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=short-springs-winter-hike-2018>

RSVP Contact: David Adams, david.adams@tn.gov or 615-626-1462

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/na-na-short-springs.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Old Stone Fort State Park](#) is ~11 miles away and has campsites with electrical and water hook-ups.

Enjoy the great outdoors and beat the winter slump. Join us for a hike on the trails at Short Springs State Natural Area. Hikers will enjoy a 3-mile hike on Busby Falls, Adams Falls, and Machine Falls Loop Trails. We will add an optional 1.5-mile Laurel Bluff Loop Trail hike at the end for those interested. These trails have many ups and downs, creek crossings and beautiful waterfalls so be prepared for slow going & gorgeous scenery. Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring lunch and plenty of water. The hike will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather so be sure to leave a number where you can be reached in case of cancellation. This hike is considered moderate by most. The Natural Area was hit by an EF1

tornado on November 29, 2016. We will encounter some of the damage as we hike the trails and will add that to the discussion.

Birding Field Trip: Reelfoot Lake

Date: February 10, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 2/8/18

Location: Reelfoot Lake State Park Visitor's Center, 2595 Highway 21 E, Tiptonville, TN (36.363718, -89.432946)

Hike Leader(s): Allan J. Trently, West Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=birding-field-trip-reelfoot-lake-feb-2018>

RSVP Contact: Allan Trently, allan.trently@tn.gov or 731-512-1369

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/reelfoot-lake>

Overnight Accommodations: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/campground/reelfoot-lake>

From the visitor's center we will walk the boardwalk and scope out waterfowl on the lake and in the surrounding swamp. Then we will carpool to Keystone Pocket to check out the birds from the fishing pier and from along the Keystone Trail. Reelfoot Lake is one of the best places in Tennessee for wintering waterfowl. We should expect 100s (possibly 1000s) of ruddy ducks, mallards, gadwall, American white pelican and other waterfowl. Bald eagles are typically seen. The Keystone Trail is a 1.5-mile (one way) lakeside trail that runs through forest. The trail is considered easy for most people. Please bring binoculars and, if you have one, a spotting scope. The event will end around 11:00 a.m. but people can leave earlier. The trip leader, Allan J. Trently will be speaking on wetland ecosystems and bird habitat in the visitor's center at 1:30 p.m. Also at 1:30, the park will be running an Eagle Tour. Please join either of these events. Please visit the visitor's center for a special Smithsonian exhibit on waterways.

The Mystery of the Missing Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Ecosystem, a Presentation at the Friends of Roan Mountain (FORM) Winter Rally

Date: February 17, 2018 **Time:** See FORM website **Fee:** FORM **RSVP Deadline:** FORM

Location: Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center, TN Highway 143

Hike Leader(s): Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

RSVP Contact: Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov or 865-594-5601

More Information: <http://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/calendar/calendar.htm>

Overnight Accommodations: [Roan Mountain State Park](#) has cabins and camping.

East Regional Ecologist, Lisa Huff, will present a history of the shortleaf pine-bluestem vegetation community at the Friends of Roan Mountain (FORM) Winter Rally, explaining what happened to this important ecosystem and some efforts underway to re-establish it in

Tennessee. This event is sponsored by FORM, so you must register via their website to attend. About the leader: Lisa Huff started her professional career working for Tennessee State Parks as a seasonal interpreter over 30 years ago. Her professional experiences have taken her across the North American continent in the U.S. and Canada, to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, to Europe and to Africa. She's been with the Tennessee Natural Areas Program for the last 17 years.

Friends of Roan Mountain (FORM) Winter Rally: Hike at Hampton Creek Cove

Date: February 17, 2018 **Time:** See FORM website **Fee:** FORM **RSVP Deadline:** FORM

Location: Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area (36.152327, -82.055601) on Hampton Creek Road

Hike Leader(s): Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

RSVP Contact: Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov or 865-594-5601

More Information: <http://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/calendar/calendar.htm>

Overnight Accommodations: [Roan Mountain State Park](#) has cabins and camping.

Join East Regional Ecologist, Lisa Huff, for a winter hike at Hampton Creek Cove SNA as part of the Friends of Roan Mountain (FORM) Winter Rally. The hike will be in the afternoon following the morning Winter Rally presentations. We will meet at the Hampton Creek Cove parking area and will hike up the Birchfield Trail to the stream crossing and back down, a distance of about three miles. Maybe we'll see a Golden Eagle. It's happened before! This hike is sponsored by FORM as part of their 2018 Winter Rally, so you must register on their website to attend. About the leader: Lisa Huff started her professional career working for Tennessee State Parks as a seasonal interpreter over 30 years ago. Her professional experiences have taken her across the North American continent in the U.S. and Canada, to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, to Europe and to Africa. She's been with the Tennessee Natural Areas Program for the last 17 years.

Wetlands Hike at Henry Horton State Park

Date: March 3, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 3/2/2018

Location: Henry Horton State Park (35.5909, -86.7023)

Hike Leader(s): Erin Singer, Assistant Biologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=wetlands-hike-at-2018>

RSVP Contact: Erin Singer, erin.singer@tn.gov or 615-636-4909

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton>

Overnight Accommodations: Overnight accommodations are available at [Henry Horton State Park](#).

It's almost spring! Let's see if we can spot a Spring Peeper! Join a Natural Areas Biologist for a

hike to the biologically diverse wetlands at Henry Horton State Park. Enjoy a 3.5-mile round-trip hike through cedar glades, hardwood forest, and wetlands. A 20 foot observation tower along the way offers great views of the Duck River. This is a moderately difficult hike so remember to bring sturdy hiking shoes, water, and a snack. It might be chilly so don't forget to layer up with warm clothes. We will meet at the Campstore located in the Campground. We will disembark from the Campstore at 10:00 a.m. central time. Come ready for an adventure!

Early Spring Flowers at Carter Cave State Natural Area

Date: March 17, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 3/15/18

Location: Carter Cave State Natural Area (35.1097,-85.9292)

Hike Leader(s): Todd Crabtree, State Botanist

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=early-spring-flowers-at-carter-cave-2018>

RSVP Contact: Todd Crabtree, todd.crabtree@tn.gov or 615-532-1378

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-east-region/east-region/na-na-carter-harry-lee.html>

Overnight Accommodations: Camping and cabins are available 42 miles away at [Tims Ford State Park](#)

On the southern Cumberland Plateau you will find lots of limestone in what geologists call Karst terrain. Numerous caves are formed here and we will see one of the most dramatic cave entrances in Tennessee. Cascading water leaves the huge "buggytop" entrance and enters the forest as a full size stream. Along the trail enroute to the cave entrance are spring ephemeral wildflowers. These show offs of spring are just one of the plant groups featured on the hike. Naked trees and the epiphytes that grow on their "skin", mosses, shrubs and limestone loving perennials will all be on view. The terrain is challenging over the 4-mile roundtrip so good ankle support is advised. Bring food for lunch at the cave entrance and water.

Vernal Equinox at Window Cliffs

Date: March 20, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 3/18/18

Location: Window Cliffs State Natural Area, 8400 Old Cane Creek Rd, Baxter, TN 38544

Hike Leader(s): Kristen Garrison, Burgess Falls Ranger and Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=vernal-equinox-at-window-cliffs-2018>

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov or 615-532-0437

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/na-na-window-cliffs.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Edgar Evins State Park](#) is 30 minutes away and has camping and cabins.

There's no better way to celebrate the first day of spring than with a hike to Tennessee's newest designated state natural area. Get your hiking boots laced and your wading shoes ready and join this guided excursion to the cliff tops of Window Cliffs State Natural Area. Located within the dissected portion of the Eastern Highland Rim, Window Cliffs consists of a very narrow, elongated ridge that lies in the neck of an incised meander of Cane Creek. Approximately 2.4 stream-miles of Cane Creek flow through the natural area along with Phelps Branch, a tributary to Cane Creek. A few small cascades, steep slopes and narrow ledges, including a 20-foot waterfall, occur along Cane Creek. The newly built 5.4-mile roundtrip trail is strenuous with a total of 20 non-bridged stream crossings (with nearly knee-high water in spots), so a guided hike provides a great way to enjoy this natural gem. With her training in zoology, Ranger Garrison will discuss the wildlife and other critters protected at Window Cliffs. Trained in botany, Roger McCoy will inform participants about the plants and natural communities along the trail and atop the cliffs. Those who don't mind wet feet won't be disappointed once they ascend to the spectacular cliff tops. Participants should bring snacks, water, and may wish to bring a walking stick and wading shoes. Pets are not permitted at Window Cliffs State Natural Area.

Track your hike at Virgin Falls State Natural Area

Date: March 24, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 3/22/18

Location: Virgin Falls Trailhead Parking Lot- 2080 Scott Gulf Rd, Sparta, TN 38583 (35.854080, -85.282163)

Hike Leader(s): Stephanie Williams, Data Manager & Erin Singer, Biologist- Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=track-your-hike-at-virgin-falls-state-natural-area-2018>

RSVP Contact: Stephanie Williams, stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov or 615-238-1966

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/na-na-virgin-falls.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Fall Creek Falls](#) is an hour away and has camping and cabins.

Have you ever wanted to use your phone or GPS unit to navigate in the outdoors and collect information from the trails you've hiked? Join the Division of Natural Areas to discover the tools and tips needed to help guide you to landmarks and create simple maps of where you have traveled. I will show you the apps we use on iPhone and Android mobile devices to track our position in the field and how to use a handheld Garmin GPS unit to collect information. After a Q&A session, we will hike the Virgin Falls Trail (~9 miles round-trip) (~5-7 hours) with GPS units in hand and enjoy the unique scenery while practicing our new skills. The trails pass small rockhouses, boulder fields, sinks, caves, and waterfalls in route to Virgin Falls where the trail ends. The distance to Virgin Falls is four miles one way. The strenuous trail descends roughly 900 ft. in elevation along a path that is rocky with uneven footing in some areas. Please be prepared for this adventure with sturdy boots, water, lunch, and clothing for the season. We will provide participants that register with a list of apps to download before the hike.

Hiking the Blue Ridge

Date: March 25, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m Eastern **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 3/19/18

Location: Rocky Fork State Park main parking area; 501 Rocky Fork Rd, Flag Pond, TN 37657

Hike Leader(s): Sam King, Stewardship Ecologist & Jesse Germeraad, Rocky Fork Park Manager

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=hiking-the-blue-ridge-2018>

RSVP Contact: Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov or 629-215-0194

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/rocky-fork>

Overnight Accommodations: [Roan Mountain State Park](#) is 40 miles away and offers both camping and cabins.

Let's Hike! And let's do it at Tennessee's newest State Park, Rocky Fork. We will meet at the parking area at 9:00 am and spend the day on the trail for a 6-mile hike in the Blue Ridge physiographic province. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes, as the terrain is fairly rugged. Also remember to bring plenty of water and pack a lunch for the trail. Join us as we highlight the conservation efforts of both Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Division of Natural Areas. For travelling guests, overnight accommodations can be made at Roan Mountain State Park. Trip leaders; Sam King has spent the last 6 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and an Ecologist, and Jesse Germeraad is the Park Manager at Rocky Fork and has worked as a Tennessee Park Ranger since 2010.

Earth Day Hike

Date: April 22, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m Eastern **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 4/16/18

Location: Frozen Head State Natural Area, Old Mac Trailhead (36.128594, -84.505138) in Morgan County Tennessee. Park Office is near the Trailhead: 964 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg, TN 37887

Hike Leader(s): Sam King, Stewardship Ecologist & Joe Nowotarski, Frozen Head Park Ranger

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=frozen-head-earth-day-hike-2018>

RSVP Contact: Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov or 629-215-0194

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-east-region/east-region-/na-na-frozen-head.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Norris Dam State Park](#) is 40 miles away and offers both camping and cabins.

Come celebrate Earth Day at Frozen Head State Natural Area. Division of Natural Areas Ecologist Sam King will lead a day hike through this scenic State Natural Area. While we won't even get close to covering the 70 miles of trail at Frozen Head, we will spend the majority of the day hiking 7 miles on some of the most beautiful trails in the state. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes, as the terrain is fairly rugged. Also remember to bring plenty of water and pack a lunch for the trail. Join our Earth Day celebration as we highlight the conservation efforts of both Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Division of Natural Areas. We will meet at the Old Mac Trailhead at 9:00 AM Eastern. For travelling guests primitive camping is available at Frozen Head and cabins are available at Norris Dam or Pickett State Parks (1 hr away). Trip leaders; Sam King has spent the last 6 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and an Ecologist., and Joe Nowotarski has been a Park Ranger at Frozen Head since 2014.

Spring Wildflower Identification for Beginners

Date: April 28, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 4/26/2018

Location: Long Hunter State Park Visitor Center (36.09258, -86.55583)

Hike Leader(s): David Lincicome, Tennessee Natural Heritage Program Manager

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=spring-wildflower-identification-for-beginners-2018>

RSVP Contact: Loretha Legette, loretha.legette@tn.gov or 615-532-0431

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/long-hunter> and <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/couchville-cedar-glade.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Cedars of Lebanon State Park](#) is located 16 miles east of Long Hunter and has Cabins and a Campground available.

Come enjoy spring wildflowers at Long Hunter State Park and Couchville Glade State Natural Area. David Lincicome, Natural Heritage Program Manager, will offer an introduction to wildflower identification for beginners. During the walk, participants will learn the use of basic wildflower keys, plant family characteristics and basic botanical terms will be introduced. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Attendees may also wish to bring a notebook, pencil, lunch, water and bug spray. A hand lens and plant identification guides will be provided for use during the hike. We will spend the morning at Long Hunter State Park and then after lunch willing participants can join David at the nearby Couchville Glade State Natural.

Short Mountain Ecotone Tour

Date: May 5, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$15 **RSVP Deadline:** 4/15/18

Location: Headwaters WMA, Gunter Hollow Rd, Short Mountain, Cannon County (35.86494, -85.95858)

Hike Leader(s): David Withers, TDEC; Neal Appelbaum, Cannon Co.; Mark Vance, TWRA

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=short-mountain-ecotone-tour>

RSVP Contact: David Withers, david.withers@tn.gov or 615-532-0441

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/na-na-short-mountain.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Rock Island State Park](#) is an approximately 30-minute drive east of the WMA.

This spring hike will take participants on a 2-mile hike up Gunter Hollow Road to examine the flora, fauna, and geology unique belonging to the massif. We begin at the Headwaters WMA and learn how this unique distinctive landscape contains a treasure trove of rare species, migrating upslope through several geologic strata and ending atop Short Mountain at the picturesque overlook maintained by the Short Mountain Bible Camp. This moderately strenuous hike will include an elevation gain of ~500 feet, so come prepared! Transportation from the Bible Camp back to the WMA will be provided. Expect the unexpected, as this hike attracts a variety of people with knowledge and experiences unique to the area.

Aquatics Hike at Short Springs State Natural Area

Date: May 5, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 2-May-18

Location: Short Springs State Natural Area (35.407453, -86.174645). Short Springs Road, Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Hike Leader(s): Erin Singer, Assistant Biologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=aquatics-hike-at-short-springs-state-natural-area-2018>

RSVP Contact: Erin Singer, erin.singer@tn.gov or 615-636-4909

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/na-na-short-springs.html>

Overnight Accommodations: Camp sites are available 10 miles away at [Old Stone Fort State Park](#).

Have you ever peeked under a rock in a stream? You may be surprised what you will find. Join a Natural Areas Biologist at Short Springs State Natural Area for a stream exploration. We will talk about all things aquatic from dragonflies to salamanders. Wear shoes you can hike in and don't mind getting wet, closed toe is optimal but sturdy hiking sandals (Chacos, Tevas, Keens, etc.) are okay as well. No flip flops please. We will hike in on the Machine Falls Loop Trail (1.5 Miles) and explore Bobo Creek as well (0.5 Miles). The trails are considered moderate to strenuous due to changes in elevation. This hike is weather dependent, when registering be sure to leave a number where you can be reached in the event of a cancellation.

Camps Gulf Cave Tour, Fall Creek Falls State Park

Date: May 11, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 5/9/18

Location: Fall Creek Falls State Park Betty Dunn Nature Center, TN 37367 (35.662444, -85.350162)

Hike Leader(s): Cara Alexander, Park Ranger Fall Creek Falls; Stephanie Williams, Data Manager, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=camps-gulf-cave-tour-2018>

RSVP Contact: Stephanie Williams, stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov or 615-238-1967

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/contact/fall-creek-falls>

Overnight Accommodations: [Fall Creek Falls State Park](#) has camping and cabins.

Camps Gulf Cave is located in Fall Creek Falls State Park in Van Buren County, Tennessee. We will follow Park Ranger, Cara Alexander, on a tour of the cave and learn about the endangered bat species that use the cave. We will highlight cave features and provide details on White Nose Syndrome (WNS) disease that affects bat species. People that register will need to bring an extra change of clothes including shoes, headlamps and flashlights. Helmets will be provided. We will meet at the Nature Center of Fall Creek Falls at 10:00 a.m. from there we will drive ~10 minutes to the cave. We will spend about an hour to hour and a half inside Camps Gulf cave.

Sunset Nature Hike: Big Hill Pond State Park

Date: May 19, 2018 **Time:** 6:00 p.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 5/17/18

Location: Big Hill Pond State Park Visitor's Center, John Howell Road, Pocahton, TN (35.063300, -88.719416)

Hike Leader(s): Allan J. Trently, West Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=sunset-nature-hike-big-hill-pond-2018>

RSVP Contact: Loretha Legette, loretha.legette@tn.gov or 615-532-0431

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/big-hill-pond>

Overnight Accommodations: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/campground/big-hill-pond>

Participants will hike the three-mile loop from the parking lot above the Travis McNatt Lake, across the Dismal Swamp Boardwalk to the lookout tower and back to the parking lot. This section of trail is considered moderate (some downhill and uphill climbing) to most hikers. The loop takes us through dry upland forest featuring a number of wildflowers, across the bald cypress swamp along the boardwalk, and across the lake dam. We will stop along the way to

identify plants and animals and to interpret the ecology of the area. Since we may be heading back in the dark, please bring a flashlight. This event should last between two and three hours depending on the number of stops we make along the way.

Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion

Date: May 19, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

RSVP Deadline: 5/16/18

Location: Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

Hike Leader(s): David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist; Roger McCoy, Division of Natural Areas Director

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov or 901-258-3147

More Information: To register go to <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/reelfoot-lake/#/?park=reelfoot-lake> and select the date of your choice and whether you wish a canoe or kayak.

Overnight Accommodations: Located about 1 hour's drive from the Ghost River, [Chickasaw State Park](#) has cabins and camping.

Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (May 19 and 20). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp. Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:00 am where most vehicles will be left for the day. Shuttle will transport paddlers to launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange. Paddling trip will begin at 9:30 am and will focus on history, diversity and beauty of the Ghost River Natural Area. The canoe float is about nine miles, some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended) and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided. Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required and deadline is May 16, 2018 or until trip roster is full. Make reservations for the trips at www.tnstateparks.com find a park-Reelfoot Lake State Park-upcoming events. For information e-mail David.Haggard@tn.gov. or call 901-258-3147. Cost is \$25 per person for park canoes/Kayak or \$10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.

Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion

Date: May 20, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

RSVP Deadline: 5/16/18

Location: Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

Hike Leader(s): David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov or 901-258-3147

More Information: To register go to <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/reelfoot-lake/#/?park=reelfoot-lake> and select the date of your choice and a canoe/ kayak

Overnight Accommodations: Located about 1 hour's drive from the Ghost River, [Chickasaw State Park](#) has cabins and camping.

Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (May 19 and 20). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp. Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:00 am where most vehicles will be left for the day. Shuttle will transport paddlers to launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange. Paddling trip will begin at 9:30 am and will focus on history, diversity and beauty of the Ghost River Natural Area. The canoe float is about nine miles, some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended) and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided. Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required and deadline is May 16, 2018 or until trip roster is full. Make reservations for the trips at www.tnstateparks.com find a park-Reelfoot Lake State Park-upcoming events. For information e-mail David.Haggard@tn.gov or call 901-258-3147. Cost is \$25 per person for park canoes/Kayak or \$10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.

High Elevations of the Cumberlands

Date: May 26, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 Eastern **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 5/23/18

Location: Frozen Head State Natural Area Park Office: 964 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg, TN

Hike Leader(s): Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=high-elevations-of-the-cumberlands-2018>

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov or 615-532-0437

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/frozen-head>

Overnight Accommodations: Camping is available at [Frozen Head State Park](#) and Natural Area.

Those who desire a lengthy trek with much elevation gain won't want to miss this late spring hike to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area. From the visitor center at 1400' elevation we'll ascend Chimney Top Trail to approximately 3000'. From the Chimney Top, we'll continue our route and descend to the visitor center via Spice Wood Trail. Participants of this strenuous 9-mile hike will pass through diverse hardwood forests, fern meadows, springs, wildflower-dominated slopes, and rocky forests of massive chestnut oaks. Trained in botany, trip leader Roger McCoy will discuss the forest types and plant species along the way including the northern starflower, a Tennessee threatened species more common in Canada, New England, and the Great Lakes States but at the edge of its range in the high elevations of the Southeast. Although we'll be walking well-marked trails, this hike is considered strenuous due to length, rocky conditions, and significant elevation gain. As such, participants should be well-prepared physically, wear hiking boots, pack plenty of lunch and water, and may wish to use a hiking stick. Pets are not permitted on this guided hike.

Intro to Cedar Glades and Barrens

Date: June 1, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 5/30/18

Location: Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area (36.101141, -86.529291). South Mt. Juliet Rd, Hermitage, TN.

Hike Leader(s): David Adams, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=intro-to-cedar-glades-and-barrens-2018>

RSVP Contact: David Adams, david.adams@tn.gov or 615-626-1462

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/couchville-cedar-glade.html>

Overnight Accommodations: Cedars of Lebanon State Park is ~15 miles away and has camping and cabins. <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

The Middle Tennessee cedar glades and barrens are considered globally rare ecosystems. Couchville provides one of the finest examples of a glade-barrens complex and protects many rare plant species. This hike will allow for discussion of this ecosystem while exploring the variety of plants that call it home. Wear sturdy shoes and sunscreen and bring water. Trip leader, David Adams, is a Middle Tennessee ecologist for the State Natural Areas Program. He has a background in ecology and natural resource management with professional experience in the Natural Areas Program and the National Park Service.

Forest Ecology at Grundy Forest State Natural Area

Date: June 9, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 6/7/18

Location: Grundy Forest State Natural Area (35.2527, -85.7477)

Hike Leader(s): Todd Crabtree, State Botanist

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=forest-ecology-at-grundy-forest-2018>

RSVP Contact: Todd Crabtree, todd.crabtree@tn.gov or 615-532-1378

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-east-region/east-region/na-na-grundy-forest.html>

Overnight Accommodations: Camping and cabins are available 42 miles away at [Tims Ford State Park](#).

There are still forests on the southern Cumberland Plateau in sheltered coves that harbor plants more comfortable in the northeastern states. The geology and topography of Grundy State Forest influence the plant community within it. These factors set the stage for competition, communication and succession among the plants. Learning about these actors and their roles

can bring a new perspective on nature. Far from a static assembly of things, it is a flowing wave of life on an ocean of rock. This 2.5-mile hike in rugged terrain will lead to a fine swimming hole where we will have lunch and then return to repeat a portion of the hike and then loop back to our departure point. Even though we will see numerous cascades along the trail, bring some water of your own for drinking. Ankles are frequently sprained on this trail. Support from good boots will prevent that.

Tour of rare plants and unique habitats at Two State Natural Areas

Date: June 16, 2018 **Time:** 9:30 a.m. Central **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 6/13/18

Location: Vesta Glade State Natural Area and Lane Cedar Glade and Barren.

Hike Leader(s): Andrea Bishop, Heritage Program Recovery Biologist

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=tour-of-rare-plants-2018>

RSVP Contact: Andrea Bishop, loretha.legette@tn.gov or 615-741-9141

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/john-hester-lane-cedar-glades.html>

Overnight Accommodations: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

The focus of the tour is the Middle Tennessee Cedar Glades and Barrens, a globally rare ecosystem. Both natural areas have numerous rare and endangered plant species restricted to this ecosystem in Tennessee. The Tennessee Purple Coneflower and a diversity of many glade plant species will be the focus. You can meet at Home Depot at 9:00 or at the John and Hester Lane Cedar Glade at 9:30. There is limited van space for those meeting at Home Depot.

Early fall hike and creek walk in a very beautiful rare plant community type with many rare plant species.

Date: September 1, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 8/30/18

Location: Dry Branch State NA, Brushy Creek Road, Hohenwald, (35.5609, -87.6573).

Hike Leader(s): Andrea Bishop, Heritage Program Recovery Biologist,

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=early-fall-hike-dry-branch-2018>

RSVP Contact: Loretha Legette, loretha.legette@tn.gov or 615-532-0044

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-west-region/west-region/dry-branch.html>

Overnight Accommodations: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/mousetail-landing>

The fall is a perfect time for a hike and creek walk in the picturesque Dry Branch and surrounding woodlands. The natural area that we are exploring is a rare plant community type

called the Highland Rim Calcareous Seeps with several rare plants that only occur in these seeps habitat. The federally endangered Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*), several state listed plant species, Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia grandifolia*), Hairy umbrella-sedge (*Fuirena squarrosa*), small headed rush and fen orchis. Many other late summer wildflowers will be in bloom along the creek bank including the cardinal flower, phlox and the great lobelia.. Enjoy the fall colors, cool and clean stream and lush woods. The shale outcrops and the moist wooded streambanks and slopes harbor many species of ferns, mosses, grasses and sedges. The hike will take approximately 3-4 hours, is moderate but there could be slick rocks in the creek. Bring water, lunch and snacks, bug spray and be prepared to get your feet wet or wear rubber boots.

Fall Wildflower Identification for Beginners

Date: September 8, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 9/6/2018

Location: Long Hunter State Park Visitor Center (36.09258, -86.55583)

Hike Leader(s): David Lincicome, Tennessee Natural Heritage Program Manager

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=fall-wildflower-identification-for-beginners-2018>

RSVP Contact: Loretha Legette, loretha.legette@tn.gov or 615-532-0431

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/long-hunter> and <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/couchville-cedar-glade.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Cedars of Lebanon State Park](#) is located 16 miles east of Long Hunter and has Cabins and a Campground available.

Come enjoy fall wildflowers at Long Hunter State Park and Couchville Glade State Natural Area. David Lincicome, Natural Heritage Program Manager, will offer an introduction to wildflower identification for beginners. During the walk, participants will learn the use of basic wildflower keys, plant family characteristics and basic botanical terms will be introduced. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Attendees may also wish to bring a notebook, pencil, lunch, water and bug spray. A hand lens and plant identification guides will be provided for use during the hike. We will spend the morning at Long Hunter State Park and then after lunch willing participants can join David at the nearby Couchville Glade State Natural.

Heritage Apple Hike (All You Can Eat!)

Date: September 8, 2018 **Time:** 10 a.m. Eastern Time **Fee:** \$12 **RSVP Deadline:** 9/5/18

Location: Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area, Hampton Creek Road (36.152, -82.055)

Hike Leader(s): Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=heritage-apple-hike-2018>

RSVP Contact: Loretha Legette, loretha.legette@tn.gov or 615-532-0044

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-east-region/east-region/na-na-hampton-creek-cove.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Roan Mountain State Park](#) is about 5 miles away and has cabins and camping.

Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area lies in the pathway of the earliest settlements of East Tennessee. As a result, the area has been inhabited for well over 200 years. Early inhabitants planted numerous apple trees of wondrous varieties, including some that we have no idea what they are! One thing we do know, some of these apples are of heritage varieties and are delicious! Join East Tennessee regional ecologist, Lisa Huff, on a hike up the cove to sample heritage apples and also help collect data on them. As we go, we will tag and geo-locate trees using GPS when we find good-tasting apples. Some trees have already been located in the past and we'll be relocating them for permanent tagging. We'll make pictures of the apples and also develop tasting "notes" to describe the flavors we encounter. If you'd like to take a few apples home with you, that will be fine, but plan on taking no more than what will fit inside one plastic grocery bag. You will also want to bring a pocket knife for cutting samples. Wear a hat, bring water and snacks, dress appropriately for the season and altitude, wear good foot gear. We will not go if it is scheduled to rain heavily, so be sure to leave a phone number when you sign up, so you can be reached in the event of cancelation. About the leader: Lisa Huff started her professional career working for Tennessee State Parks as a seasonal interpreter over 30 years ago. Her professional experiences have taken her across the North American continent in the U.S. and Canada, to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, to Europe and to Africa. She's been with the Tennessee Natural Areas Program for the last 17 years.

Coneflower Hike

Date: September 15, 2018 **Time:** 8:00AM Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 9/10/18

Location: Vesta Cedar Glade State Natural Area (36.077812, -86.397839), Gladeville TN

Hike Leader(s): Sam King, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=coneflower-hike-2018>

RSVP Contact: Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov or 629-215-0194

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/na-na-vesta-cedar-glade.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Cedars of Lebanon State Park](#) is just down the road and offers both camping and cabins.

Come check out one of the coolest flowers in Tennessee. The Tennessee Coneflower used to be endangered, but has made a serious comeback! We will meet at 8:00 am and hike through the cedar glade and barrens ecosystem to see the coneflower and other glade plants. Even though it will likely be hot, long pants and closed toe shoes are strongly recommended. This hike will be around 1.5 miles and relatively flat. Bring plenty of water for this hike as shade is limited

in the glades. Trip leader Sam King has spent the last 6 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and an Ecologist.

Carroll Cabin Barrens Hike

Date: October 12, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 10/2/18

Location: Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area, on Smith Gravel Pit Road

Hike Leader(s): Sam King, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=carroll-cabin-barrens-hike-2018>

RSVP Contact: Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov or 629-215-0194

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-west-region/west-region/carroll-cabin-barrens.html>

Overnight Accommodations: Camping is available at [Mousetail Landing State Park](#), 25 miles away.

Come check out one of West Tennessee's hidden gems. Carroll Cabin SNA boasts beautiful glades and barrens interspersed in the forests on the hills above the Tennessee River. This 3-mile hike will start at the parking area on Smith Gravel Pit Road at 10:00 a.m. and explore all this State Natural Area has to offer. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water for this fun fall hike. Trip leader Sam King has spent the last 6 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and an Ecologist.

Fall Creek Falls Fall Crayfish Cruise

Date: October 13, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** 10/8/18

Location: Upper Loop Trail, Fall Creek Falls

Hike Leader(s): David Withers, TDEC; Matt Brown, Fall Creek Falls State Park

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=fall-creek-falls-fall-crayfish-cruise-2018>

RSVP Contact: David Withers, david.withers@tn.gov or 615-532-0441

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-east-region/east-region/na-na-fall-creek-falls.html>

Overnight Accommodations: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls>

This fall hike presents the rare opportunity to seek the even rarer “Sequatchie” form of the Fall hike to seek the rare Sequatchie form of the Pristine Crayfish (*Cambarus pristinus*) at Fall Creek Falls State Park, the only public land from which this distinct Tennessee native is known in the Caney Fork River watershed. The moderate 3-mile hike will include at least one stop for an

extensive search for this reclusive yet endearing crustacean, and a chance to document the health of this population. Bring snacks and plenty of water, and footwear you don't mind getting wet. Cameras are welcome! We'll convene at the Fall Creek Falls Nature Center (35.6625, -85.3502) and relocate to the proper trailhead based on current conditions. . Be prepared to become an authority on one of our most endearing invertebrates!

Explore Fall at Virgin Falls

Date: October 20, 2018 **Time:** 8:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 10/18/18

Location: Meet at parking lot (2080 Scotts Gulf Road, Sparta, TN).

Hike Leader(s): David Adams, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=explore-fall-at-virgin-falls-2018>

RSVP Contact: David Adams, david.adams@tn.gov or 615-626-1462

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-middle-region/middle-region/na-na-virgin-falls.html>

Overnight Accommodations: [Fall Creek Falls State Park](#) is 40 miles away and has camping and cabins.

Enjoy a great fall hike in an area noted for its unique geological features, waterfalls, and rich vegetation. We will make our way to the main attraction, Virgin Falls, by beginning our hike through an upland oak-hickory forest then descend into the gorge to explore hemlocks and a mixed mesophytic forest, all while passing rock houses, sinks, and waterfalls along the way. We will take in the beauty of the fall foliage and discuss tree identification and the science behind the wonderful colors. Please consider the hike will be 9 miles round-trip (~5-7 hours) and is rated strenuous with a 900 foot change in elevation along the trail and areas with rocky, uneven footing. Dress in layers and wear sturdy boots. Bring plenty of food and water. Trip leader, David Adams, is a Middle Tennessee ecologist for the State Natural Areas Program. He has a background in ecology and natural resource management with professional experience in the Natural Areas Program and the National Park Service. The hike will be cancelled in the event of heavy precipitation before the hike which would prevent stream crossings so please leave a number where you can be reached in case of cancellation.

Plant Identification Workshop: Get to Know the Late Fall Wildflowers (and other plants too!)

Date: October 20, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 10/18/18

Location: Mineral Slough Trail, Ghost River State Natural Area (35.02677, -89.272249)
Beasley Drive, LaGrange, Tennessee

Hike Leader(s): Allan J. Trently, West Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=plant-identification-2018>

RSVP Contact: Loretha Legette, loretha.legette@tn.gov or 615-532-0431

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-west-region/west-region/ghost-river.html>

Overnight Accommodations: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/chickasaw>

Please join us to explore the late fall wildflowers. We'll give considerate attention to the hard to identify asters including the state rare willowleaf aster which is found at Mineral Slough. Once we master the aster, we'll learn a host of other plants found in the field, bottomland hardwood, marsh, and swamp. All participants will receive handouts of plant lists and ecological terms. Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist for the Division of Natural Areas has conducted plant, animal and ecological system inventories of the west Tennessee natural areas since joining the Division in 2008. He has led numerous plant and nature walks. The approximately 0.5 mile trail is flat and considered easy walking by most people. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. The leader will collect plants in the swamp and bring them to dry land for participants to learn. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil, a hand lens or magnifying glass, and plant identification guides. You can address specific questions about the outing to allan.trently@tn.gov.

Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion

Date: October 27, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central

RSVP Deadline: 10/24/17

Location: Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

Hike Leader(s): David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov or 901-258-3147

More Information: To register go to <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/reelfoot-lake/#/?park=reelfoot-lake> and select the date of your choice and whether you wish a canoe or kayak.

Overnight Accommodations: Located about 1 hour's drive from the Ghost River, [Chickasaw State Park](#) has cabins and camping.

Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (October 27 and 28). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp. Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:00 am where most vehicles will be left for the day. Shuttle will transport paddlers to launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange. Paddling trip will begin at 9:30 am and will focus on history, diversity and beauty of the Ghost River Natural Area. The canoe float is about nine miles, some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended) and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided. Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required and deadline is October 25, 2018 or until trip roster is full. Make reservations for the trips at www.tnstateparks.com find a park-Reelfoot Lake State Park-upcoming events. Cost is \$25 per person for park canoes/Kayak

or \$10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.

Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion

Date: October 28, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central

RSVP Deadline: 10/24/17

Location: Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

Hike Leader(s): David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, david.haggard@tn.gov or 901-258-3147

More Information: To register go to <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/reelfoot-lake/#/?park=reelfoot-lake> and select the date of your choice and whether you wish a canoe or kayak.

Overnight Accommodations: Located about 1 hour's drive from the Ghost River, [Chickasaw State Park](#) has cabins and camping.

Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (October 27 and 28). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp. Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9:00 am where most vehicles will be left for the day. Shuttle will transport paddlers to launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange. Paddling trip will begin at 9:30 am and will focus on history, diversity and beauty of the Ghost River Natural Area. The canoe float is about nine miles, some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended) and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided. Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required and deadline is October 25, 2018 or until trip roster is full. Make reservations for the trips at www.tnstateparks.com find a park-Reelfoot Lake State Park-upcoming events. Cost is \$25 per person for park canoes/Kayak or \$10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge.

Fall Foliage of Pogue Creek Canyon

Date: November 3, 2018 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 31-Oct-18

Location: Meet at Pogue Creek Canyon Trailhead on Hwy 154, 2.6 mi S of Pickett State Park office.

Hike Leader(s): Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/pickett/#/?park=pickett>

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov or 615-532-0437

More Information: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/natural-areas-east-region/east-region-na-na-pogue-creek-canyon.html>

Overnight Accommodations: Adjacent [Pickett State Park](#) has camping and cabins.

Whether atop the bluff overlooking a forested landscape that extends to the horizon or beneath towering sandstone cliffs, you don't want to miss this fall excursion into Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area. We'll begin our journey at the established overlook trail with a moderate 1-mile hike and then drop below the Plateau Escarpment to access an additional 3-mile strenuous trail. With experience conducting rare plant surveys and vegetation sampling in the region, Roger McCoy will share his knowledge about the local flora, rare species, and plant communities known from the upper Cumberland Plateau. We'll also walk past locations of ongoing archeological studies to document the pre-European history of Pogue Creek Canyon and the surrounding area. Participants will be rewarded with breathtaking overlooks, towering sandstone bluffs, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Pogue Creek Falls. The trail system includes steep, rocky grades, and we'll descend ladders to access below the Plateau escarpment. Therefore, those attending this excursion should have experience and a fitness level to hike in rugged terrain. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring plenty of water and snacks as we'll enjoy a picnic lunch while in the canyon. Pets are not permitted during this guided hike.

Avoid Death by GPS

Date: November 10, 2018 **Time:** 10 a.m. Eastern **Fee:** \$15 **RSVP Deadline:** 11/13/2018

Location: Seven Islands State Birding Park (35.953566, -83.687061), 2809 Kelly Ln, Kodak, TN 37764; meet in the barn near the park entrance.

Hike Leader(s): Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=avoid-death-by-gps-2018>

RSVP Contact: Loretha Legette, loretta.legette@tn.gov or 615-532-0044

More Information: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/seven-islands>

How do you avoid the phenomenon that some National Park Service rangers have started calling "death by GPS"? What is death by GPS? It's relying on a device that can fail due to dead batteries, lack of satellite reception and other problems. This phenomenon is real and has had many victims over the years. What is the solution? The good old map and compass!! Learn to find your way on the land using map and compass to orienteer. This course will teach you the basics of using a compass and a 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle topographic map to find where you are and figure out where you need to go. Course is limited to 6 people at least 14 years of age to ensure adequate personal instruction. Compasses and maps will be provided for the class (sorry, you cannot keep them). Meet at the barn near the visitor parking lot at Seven Islands. Plan to spend at least 4 hours for the course. Bring your water and snacks and dress appropriately for the predicted weather. This is a rain or shine event (unless it is predicted to pour rain or otherwise so inclement that it's impractical to proceed) and includes outdoor classroom time. About the leader: Lisa Huff started her professional career working for Tennessee State Parks as a seasonal interpreter over 30 years ago. Her professional experiences have taken her across the North American continent in the U.S. and Canada, to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, to Europe and to Africa. She's been with the Tennessee Natural Areas Program for the last 17 years.